

Brief History of Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute, NSEI

(Graduate Program in Nuclear Engineering, Medical Physics, Health Physics, Since 1964)

- 1955: First Nuclear Engineering Classes taught
- 1964: Nuclear Engineering Program (NEP) established under Graduate School; First Nuclear Engineering MS awarded
- 1977: Medical Physics Program established
- 1990: Nuclear Engineering Degree moved to College of Engineering from Graduate School
- 2001-02: Engineering Dean plans to dismantle Nuclear Engineering Program (NEP) in the College of Engineering, and disburse the faculty.
- 2002-03: Chancellor Richard Wallace transfers NEP (together with five tenured faculty, staff, space, degrees, budget) from College of Engineering to the Graduate School, creating NSEI. Interim director appointed. No new faculty positions created. The five tenured positions were (are) not fully funded, following a 8.5% cut during budget transfer.
- 2003: NSEI awarded a \$3.0M/5 year INIE Mid-West Consortium Award (only one of the five in the nation) by the Department of Energy.
- 2006: Interim Director retires. First search for permanent Director is unsuccessful. No new search is started, and no interim director has been appointed since.
- 2007: NSEI is awarded 3.0 M/3-5 year VHTR Consortium Award (as the lead University) by DOE, winning against top institutions. Also, NSEI is placed first in the nation for Faculty Scholarly Productivity by Academic Analytics.
- 2008-09: MU prevents NSEI from submitting a Faculty Development proposal in Nuclear Engineering to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, citing “costs” as the reason. MU simultaneously allowed the College of Engineering to submit a proposal asking for the similar things from the same agency.
- 2009:-MU takes away with the slot/funding for Director under “Compete Missouri” position without consulting the NSEI faculty. Graduate Dean maintains until August 2012 that the slot/funding was still in NSEI.
- 2010: External Review Team visits NSEI in April. Review is highly complementary of student quality and satisfaction, and faculty quality, recognition and successes. It is critical of extent of internal interactions and support. Review team recommends that director be appointed to work on planning.
- NSEI faculty respond in May 2010. The administration does not follow up with them.
- One faculty member retires, faculty request hiring, but no permission is given.
- 2011: NSEI faculty win a \$1.15M/4 year research award from DOE involving interactions with 3 MU faculty from other units.
- CAMPEP accredits NSEI’s Medical Physics program (both MS and PhD). MU commits in writing two new faculty positions in Medical Physics to CAMPEP, but there is no follow up.
- March 12, 2012: Dean of the Graduate School and Provost publicly announce that NSEI will be closed on March 15, and they inform the faculty, staff and students simultaneously. The NSEI

website is closed. It is claimed to news media including “Nuclear News”, the American Nuclear Society’s trade journal with circulation in many thousand, that the faculty had been in discussions with the administration.

- March/April, 2012: Following protests and meetings between faculty and administration, the Provost announces that NSEI will remain as such until all current students, those admitted (matriculated) in 2012, and possibly later, are graduated.
- Movement of NSEI as a unit to the College of Engineering is discussed. The NSEI faculty respond to a letter from the Dean of Engineering, asking clarifications on certain matters, but there is no response from the Dean resulting in end of discussions.
- September 2012: NSEI receives two new GAANN grants from the Department of Education. Proposals had been submitted in January 2012 (with involvement of about 15 other faculty on the campus from various disciplines) with full support of the MU administration in terms of support letters and matching funds.
- September 2012 to date: Graduate Dean blocks admission of students to NSEI, by removing access to application forms for admission. The faculty/staff learn of this from student emails to them. The students, in response to the forwarded emails, are first told by the Dean’s office to check on Nov 1, then on Dec 1, then again on Dec. 15, making it almost impossible to meet GAANN commitments. The Dean blames NSEI faculty when asked by the NSEI Director of Graduate Studies about this state of affairs.
- December 2012: Reports of serious stress on faculty, staff and student health. There has been no investigation by the administration.
- Emails acquired by the Tribune under the sunshine law show that the Graduate Dean worked closely with the MU provost to dismantle NSEI beginning at least in Jan 2012, keeping a “tight lid” on these. There are issues with regard to shared governance, commitments given to NSEI faculty by Chancellor Richard Wallace, applicable CRRs, and statements given to news media regarding discussions with faculty.